Nation

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Warm Weather Wonders

The annual guide to summer festivals

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Harper sides with the criminals

By Lyle Stewart

The world was shocked by the news from Nigeria that the Boko Haram terror group had kidnapped close to 300 school-age girls and announced it would sell each of them as child brides for as little as $12 each.

International offers of assistance poured in. Canada said it would send surveillance equipment and technical expertise to help search for the girls.

It's the proper thing to do. And we share in the disgust and incomprehension that anyone, for whatever misguided ideal, could participate in such a heinous crime.

If only the Canadian government could be equally as concerned about the women and girls who go missing in our own backyard.

The APTN news network dropped a bomb a couple weeks ago by revealing that the RCMP had been sitting on a report showing that the actual number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada was actually close to 1200 – double the previously accepted figure of about 600. Worse, it appears the police force had been hiding the report because of political pressure by the Harper government.

Informed speculation is that the government did not want the dramatic new figures to surface before a special Parliamentary committee into violence against Aboriginal women released its report March 7. The Prime Minister's Office interfered in the committee's report by suppressing a recommendation that called for a national public inquiry into the crisis.

The committee spent a year studying the issue, and analysts at the Library of Parliament had recommended that public inquiry should examine this historic crime. But Harper's henchmen made certain that Canadians remained in ignorance over why Native women can be targeted with impunity in this country.

According to APTN, the PMO also censored a part of the report that said the actual number of women on the list could be four or five times higher than the National Women's Association of Canada figure of 600.

It is clear that Harper, despite his so-called "tough-on-crime" credentials, is, in effect, siding with the criminals in this case.

It beggars belief. Why wouldn't the government of the people want to understand this terrible phenomenon in Canada in which Native women can simply disappear, with their abductors rarely detected or held accountable?

The fact that they are Aboriginal, often poor and sometimes living life on the margins of society may make it easier for society to turn away. But that is no longer the case. All provincial premiers have called for an inquiry, as have all parties in the House of Commons… except for Harper's Conservatives.

The absolute insanity of their position was clearly captured in an incident involving the prime minister's wife, Laureen Harper, at an event in Toronto recently. A lone protester calling for an inquiry interrupted Mrs. Harper as she spoke in favour of raising funds for stray cats.

The contrast couldn't have been clearer. Mrs. Harper, wearing costume cat ears, told the young female protester that a fundraiser for stray cats "was not the place" for a discussion of missing and murdered women, and instead invited her to donate to the effort to save stray cats.

And that puts in a nutshell. For the ruling powers in Canada, the plight of stray cats is vastly more important than the historic crime that is taking place against Aboriginal women.

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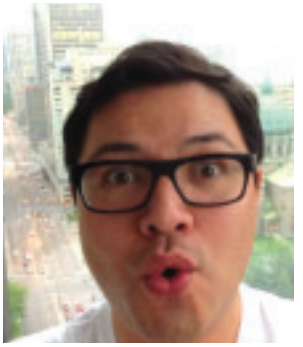

Goose break memories

by Joshua Iserhoff

After weeks of meetings, endless texting and sympathetic "likes" on Facebook, I graciously agreed to an invitation for a weekend goose hunt in Alfred, Ontario.

"The Colony" was one big happy family. I was greeted with hugs and confused questions: "What brings you here? "Do you hunt?" "I didn't know you hunted!" I would then slap back with quirky comeback!

Emily Cowboy and her aunt Sarah were the colony's go-to ladies. Pascal, a dear friend of the Cree, made every Eeyou comfortable at his Motel Rouleau, complete with free WiFi! Truly a modern Cree hunt experience. If I had billions, I would have pulled a "Kim Basinger" and bought the town!

By the way, the motel is full next year. Not even my puss'n'boots face could convince the owner to boot any of the regulars for next year. I truly loved my time with the colony. Thanks to Bella Petawabano, the chairperson of the Cree Health Board Chair (and my personal plucker), I was able to enjoy a nice comfy room with no end tables and lamps. Thank goodness for iPhone flashlight.

Nothing beats being the comfort of hunting in Eeyou Istchee. However, the difference is when hunting in the fields, goose honk from east to west, north to south, top to bottom – they're everywhere! I couldn't relax! Goose honking all day and night can drive you nuts, especially when you're about to sleep.

Therefore I am fond of our blind at Oubajuksh Point, just across form Don's Point here in Mistissini. We always look to one direction, usually south and wait. I have mastered the art of patience at the blind, not so much for long-winded people at meetings. The Iserhoff clan and the Macleod clan have killed thousands over the years and Judy Macleod can attest to this story because she has a front-row seat to the show! If you are wondering about my vegetarian ways, yes I am still faithful to my tofu.

It's not how many geese you were able to kill but it does feel good to leave the zero club. In the end, it's more about family time than anything else. It's about the memories.

I still remember the good times we had at late Johnny Whiskeychan's territory in Waskaganish. I also recall the late John Tent's regular evening visits when he invited us to stay at Gamindoodaoukutch at Rupert River. Or the year I made the late Dinah Jolly laugh hysterically because of my stories. I think of the Eastmain Eeyouch at High Rocks. Fred Tomatuk's camp remembers me in the 1980s as the boy who loved to dance fiddle.

I am filled with great memories, especially the times that I made new friends such as the late Jibou from Eastmain. Wherever we may pitch our tent, or rent a motel on a nearby field, we the Cree are always ready to mingle and hunt with our fellow Cree. It's a time where we come together and feast! I am grateful to have shared many goose breaks with my Elders. I am humbled to have them in my heart. I hope Pascal calls me before Christmas – mother is excited already! #Goosebreak2014

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Jumping barriers

Waskaganish business start-up Boodoosam Safety digs into mining bonanza

by Jesse Staniforth

Getting a product-distribution business started, especially one serving major mining companies in the Cree Nation, is a difficult project. Waskaganish's Darren Weistche learned that the hard way. But Weistche's example proves that a combination of ambition and persistence can get you where you want to go.

A truck driver at Goldcorp's Éléonore mine near Wemindji, Weistche said he watched as one company after another came up from the south to capitalize on the business opportunities the mine presented.

"I've been working up there for two years," he said. "And I'm watching people come in and out with their businesses, be it air conditioning, HVAC, you name it. There were no Cree companies that really did what I'm doing."

Weistche distributes industrial safety equipment through his company Boodoosam Safety Inc. The company was the product of a helpful coincidence: as Weistche was working at Éléonore and wondering how he could get in on the business opportunities the mine had opened up, he happened to see an episode of CBC television's Dragons' Den featuring northern Ontario firm Great Nipissing Tent (GNT). That company was looking for funding for their barrier-to-go mining safety products – portable and retractable barriers used to indicate and block off dangerous areas.

The show was a success for GNT twice over: first, the Dragons

of the program agreed to give the business funding, and second, Weistche gave them a call and offered to distribute their product in Eeyou Istchee.

"But it was a little more complicated than I thought," Weistche admitted. "Back in September, we went down and had a meeting with the Health and Safety Commissioner, and two guys at the mine. I pulled out my product, but little did I know is that it took a little more than a Barrier-to-Go product to become a supplier for a mine. I was missing about three or four thousand other products."

Large companies like Goldcorp, it turns out, don't buy one product from one supplier at a time. Or, as Weistche explained it, "You can't be selling forks. You have to be selling the whole set. I took that as a lesson. I got caught with my pants down, and I went back and started working on a project."

If it sounds like Weistche has an uncommon amount of ambition, that's probably right. He's been working since the age of 17, when he began as a Hydro linesman. Since then, he's worked in construction to put himself through school, finishing a general Arts and Sciences Certificate and a pre-engineering program at Ottawa's Algonquin College, as well a two-year Cree Trades course in mechanics, before finally ending up driving a truck at the mine.

"I was always in the habit of being a college boy," he said. "I'd always go back to school and learn my book work, then go back to the construction field in the summer to make some money for school or partying or whatnot. I've been keeping up a pretty good income, while at the same time maintaining my grades in school and being a pretty avid student."

So it's no surprise that fresh from his September defeat, he came back with a new plan. First, he talked with Wemindji's Tawish Development Corporation, who

were already supplying Goldcorp with some products. He came to learn how to get his piece of the mining pie.

"We're Crees," he said, "and we're trying to push our way into this opportunity that's come about with the development in the area."

Plus, he widened his net to include the entire safety field, which he had learned from his mining experience was an area of absolute necessity.

"You can't do anything without safety," Weistche said. "So I figured I'm going to get the safety products: the rubber gloves, hardhats, boots, you name it."

Soon after, he partnered with Sudbury safety company Souci Salo Safety as a middleman. However, even with a full catalogue, he was surprised to find that Goldcorp wasn't warming to his advances as much as he'd like, even as he stressed that Goldcorp had an obligation to privilege a Cree supplier over those from outside the territory.

"I kept pushing, firing off emails saying, 'Listen, these are your policies and procedures, these are the rules of engagement. You guys have to follow through with my idea because you're on our territory.'"

Still, Weistche wasn't getting the deal he hoped for. So he talked with his sister about making a statement on the company's marketing webpage. Something that wouldn't be too direct or startling, but a strong message that Goldcorp was dragging its feet getting into a deal with a new company from the Cree territory.

Weistche chuckled, saying, "I woke up the next day and I was pretty startled by what I saw. My sister tore the whole roof down, really put those guys in their place. This post that she put up, usually we only get 100 or 200 views, but in about an hour there were 782 views on that one post."

In a panic, he took the post down and tried to back away from the hard line he had taken. But shortly thereafter, he was surprised to get a call from a Goldcorp buyer who was ready to deal.

It could have been a coincidence. "I don't know if he heard about [the post]," Weistche said. "But somebody might have told him, 'These Crees aren't f**king around.'"

From one deal came another – an open book account with large-scale construction-firm VCC-Massénor. Now Weistche is working on an accord with Stornaway Diamond Mine. Weistche has had one taste of success and is ready for more.

"It's a pretty wonderful feeling, to be honest. This is the first business I've ever gotten into," he said. "It's Goose Break right now, and a bit slow, but despite that, we're pushing pretty hard, and I'm pretty sure that we're going to be in a monopoly here."

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A new Cree diplomat

Melissa Brousseau Saganash takes over as director of Cree-Quebec relations

by Amy German

The Grand Council of the Crees welcomed a new Director of Cree Quebec Relations on April 15 as Melissa Brousseau Saganash replaced Tina Petawabano in the position.

Saganash was just settling in to her new job – a key position for the Cree government – when the Nation spoke to her about her priorities.

The Nation: How do you feel about your new job?

Melissa Brousseau Saganash: I'm happy to be working for the Cree Nation. It's where I hope my contribution will help as we build towards a strong and healthy nation. There are lots of things happening right now in Eeyou Istchee, like the new regional government with the Jamésiens, the capacity building efforts put forward by the Cree Nation Government and communities expanding. I am glad to be part of it all. There's a lot of pride in being able to work for your people.

TN: Define what you will be doing?

MBS: The top priority of the Cree Nation has always been to defend Cree rights and to ensure respect and proper implementation of our treaty. My job will fall in line with these guidelines. The voice of the James Bay Cree has always been present and so we will continue to be heard and make our positions known. We're still here and we intend to stay.

TN: Why is this of interest to you?

MBS: I've always had an interest in the politics of Eeyou Istchee. I don't think there are any other politics like it! The rate at which we are moving forward in terms of self-governance, community building, and establishing of a political force in the province, and the country, is astounding. We have been witnessing history in the making for 40 years. What's also great about all this is that we still have many of the original signatories and negotiators still here with us to talk about what really happened during those years. Today, our models of governance are at the forefront of Aboriginal politics. There is a tremendous amount of history in just the last 40 years of the James Bay Cree. We have always been a very important fibre in the fabric of Quebec. We've reached a point where we are now sitting at that table where decisions are made. We are no longer waiting for others to decide for us. It's an important turning point in our story. We have a very interesting story and we're not done writing it just yet.

TN: Where have you worked previously?

MBS: Before being hired at the Cree Nation Government I was at CBC North. I produced Maamuitaau, the only Aboriginal-language show on the CBC, along with a great team for three adventurous seasons. In hindsight, my experience at CBC researching topics affecting the people of Eeyou Istchee, reading agreements, being present at most events was great preparation for this position.

Prior to working for the CBC, I was the communications officer for Niskamoon Corporation during almost six years. My role was to help in the recruitment of 150 JBNQA beneficiaries to train and then work for Hydro-Québec as per the Paix des Braves Agreement.

I also worked for the CHRD as their Youth Programs Officer for several years.

Melissa Brousseau Saganash

Through these jobs, I have seen lots of opportunity for Cree employment. The next several years will most definitely bring more employment. We'll have to get everybody prepared in anticipation for these.

TN: How do you like Quebec City?

MBS: So far, it's great! I haven't had the chance to explore as much as I'd like to, but I'm sure I'll find the time once I've settled in a bit more. The city is rich in culture and history and I hear the summer festivals are very entertaining. I'm looking forward to getting to know my new neighbourhood over the next while.

TN: How do you feel about working with the Quebec government?

MBS: I look forward to it. The timing at which I'm entering into this job couldn't be better. As we know now, the Liberals won a majority government in the April 7 election that will bring in a new cabinet. Essentially, they will be starting their new jobs at the same time as me!

As we have proven in the past, we have always found a way to work with Quebec, regardless of the party elected, and I look forward to this new relationship establishing itself.

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Cloutier officially joins Order of Canada

Edith Cloutier, President of the Regroupement des Centres d'amitié Autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ), was officially invested into the Order of Canada May 7.

Cloutier has worked to improve the lives of urban Aboriginals for years. This is particularly true in Val d'Or, where she has served as Executive Director of the Native Friendship Centre since the age of 23.

"Receiving the Order of Canada is overwhelming," Cloutier told the Nation. "I needed to take a step back and look at the past 25 years of my life to better understand what was happening. After some consideration, it all came down to the fact that I enjoy serving my people and being committed to the improvement of the quality of life of my Brothers and Sisters living in the city. The Friendship Centre movement has been my life, therefore, I wish to share this honour with all of my colleagues who are at the heart of these wonderful organizations across Canada."

The Order of Canada is one of the country's highest civilian honours. Created in 1967, it recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.

Atleo resigns as AFN Chief

The federal government's controversial First Nations Education Act has been put on hold following the May 2 resignation of Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Atleo supported the education bill, which has been criticized by several First Nations groups for the amount of control it would leave in the hands of the federal government.

Atleo struggled to convince fellow First Nations leaders to support the bill. His acceptance of the bill sparked accusations he was too cozy with the Conservative government, charges which likely had a hand in his abrupt resignation. In his final press conference as chief, Atleo said he hoped his decision would keep his leadership from being a distraction.

"This work is too important, and I'm not prepared to be an obstacle to it or a lightning rod distracting from the kids and their potential," said Atleo.

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo

Federal funding for First Nations education had steadily increased under Atleo's leadership, and the proposed bill included additional funding increases that were uncharacteristic of the Harper administration. However, the majority of First Nations leaders and communities were vocal about their concern for the lack of self-determination it granted FN educators and administrators.

feature

Warm weather wonders

he ation s annual guide to summer happenings

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Montreal festival fun

A city famous for its numerous festivals and boundless fun for anyone looking to revel in arts, culture, celebrations, sports events or circus-style fun, Montreal has just about everything to please everyone when it comes to entertainment and events.

Kurios

While it started in April, the Cirque du Soleil's latest oeuvre, Kurios, has been wowing audiences for weeks under the Cirque's big top in the Old Port of Montreal and will for a little while longer for some lucky patrons.

Kurios is dubbed a "seeing is disbelieving" cabaret of curiosities designed to challenge your perceptions with a feast for the eyes that will no doubt dazzle and blow you away!

A performer-based circus of contortionism, dance, theatrics and art, the show runs until July 13.

www.cirquedusoleil.com

Festival TransAmériques

If you're up for a generous helping of modern dance and theatre, the Festival TransAmériques is the event for you.

Featuring works of works by up-and-coming and veteran choreographers, writers and directors, this mind-blowing event is all about generating dialogue between the generations while taking in the spectacular showcase.

Running from May 22-June 7, this fest features local and visiting acts from around the world.

www.fta.qc.ca/en

Montreal Museums Day

If you've ever wondered what Montreal has to offer in terms of museums and wanted to check them out marathon-style, for free, with thousands of other people, you're in luck. Montreal Museums Day takes place on May 25 and serves up all of the museum fun that you can handle.

This year's event features seven thematic tours or itineraries for patrons to enjoy, as many of Montreal's museums are located within close proximity of one another. As the various tours are listed on their website, one can peruse them in advance to pick out what may best suit your needs and activity levels.

Transportation is provided for free from museum to museum by the city for those who don't feel up to walking from one location to the next.

www.museesmontreal.org

Go Bike Montreal Festival

Attracting cyclists from around Quebec and the globe, Vélo Québec's week-long festivities leading up to the 30th annual Tour de l'Île de Montréal are perfect for those who love life on two wheels.

Newly dubbed the "Go Bike Montreal Festival," this active week is all about promoting biking to work as well as cycling for sightseeing. The week features multiple events in various locations geared at different types of cyclists.

Kicking off the week is the Metropolitan Challenge 2014 on May 25, a joyful, non-competitive bike tour that offers participants the options of cycling 75, 100, 125 or 150 kilometres with thousands of other cyclists.

For the athletic night owls who want to get their cycle on after dark, the festival's Tour de la Nuit May 30 is a celebration of cycling during the sunset and beyond in beautiful ambient light.

A 20-km tour of many city streets in lusty late spring air, this is a favourite event for many as folks don glow sticks and fun attire to take in a non-competitive joy ride that's all about savouring the city.

credit: Denis Beaumont

Festival international Nuits d'Afrique

On Sunday, June 1, Montreal will proudly host its 30th Tour de l'Île, featuring a wide variety of specialty tours to celebrate this special anniversary.

www.veloquebec.info/en/govelo/The-Tour-de-Ile-de-Montreal

Montreal International Music Competition

If a musical competition is more your bag and you happen to be around from May 26-June 6, look no further than the Montreal International Music Competition for piano.

For this event, 24 of the world's finest young pianists will battle it out in the 13th edition for keyboard supremacy.

This year 11 women and 13 men from 14 different countries will face-off against each other. Since the average age of the contestants is 23, a youthful and energetic extravaganza can be expected.

www.concoursmontreal.ca

EM15

Now celebrating its 15th anniversary, MUTEK, Montreal's top elec-

Board of Compensation & CREECO

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Board of Compensation (BoC) and CREECO will be visiting your community to provide information on its organization and its connection to its subsidiaries, as well as gain feedback from the community.

Come and join us in your community as follows:

Community	Date Time: 9:00 am - 5 pm	Place
Mistissini	Thursday, May 29, 2014	Neoskweskau Sports Complex
Wemindji	Monday, June 2, 2014	Cree Nation of Wemindji Band Office
Nemaska	Tuesday, June 3, 2014	Nemaska First Nation Sports Complex
Waswanipi	Wednesday, June 4, 2014	Waswanipi Youth Center
Ouje-Bougoumou	Thursday, June 5, 2014	Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Centre
Waskaganish	Monday, June 9, 2014	Gathering Place
Eastmain	Tuesday, June 10, 2014	Stajune Arena Sports Complex
Chisasibi	Wednesday, June 11, 2014	Michuuwaap
Whapmagoostui	Thursday, June 12, 2014	Samson Dick Memorial Arena
Washaw Sibi	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

For more information about the BoC-CREECO Community information sessions, please contact Ms. Effie Mark at email: emark@boc-creeco.ca or Ms. Blanche Awashish at email: bawashish@boc-creeco.ca or both through phone at (418) 745-3931.

For more information, visit the **eeyouwayoflife.ca**

We are looking for catering for 2 snacks (donuts, pastries & fruits) and drinks (water, coffee & tea in the morning and afternoon) for each community. Should you wish to provide a bid, please contact Ms. Blanche Awashish, Administrative Agent at (418) 745-3931 by May 16, 2014.

tronic music and digital creativity event, has teamed up with Elektra, the city's digital arts fest, to present a mega powerhouse event dubbed EM15.

Running May 27-June 1, EM15 will showcase more than 100 Canadian and international artists in several new venues including the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, which will serve as the nerve centre for the event.

Electronic music lovers can rejoice as the mega lineup include: Nicolas Jaar (with Will Epstein and Sasha Spielberg), Donato Dozzy, Ricardo Villalobos, Lee Bannon, Voices from the Lake, Archie Pelago, Heatsick, Richie Hawtin, Ben Frost, Holly Herndon, Egyptrixx, Jonas Reinhardt, Oneohtrix Point Never and Tim Hecker.

www.mutek.org

The Fringe Festival

The Montreal International Fringe Festival descends upon Montreal June 2-22 for 20 outrageously artistic days of uncensored theatre, dance, comedy, spoken word, music, burlesque performers, vaudeville acts, fire eating, cross dressing and all-out craziness.

Bringing acts from around the world to Montreal audiences at very low prices, the Fringe gives voice to performers, writers, directors and artists outside of the mainstream of traditional theatre. Using a wide variety of makeshift and conventional theatres as well as an outdoor venue where patrons can meet the performers, this is a unique event where patrons can get close and personal with their entertainment.

With several hundred shows to pick from, there's a reason why people keep coming back every year for this unique and cherished event.

http://montrealfringe.ca

North America's only Grand Prix June 6-8

Suoni Per Il Popolo

While Montreal hosts many events that draw mass audiences from around the world, there are also smaller events that bring the voices of the common man (and woman) to the stage. Suoni Per Il Popolo is that kind of festival, highlighting best of the avant-garde music scene.

The event features a wide variety of less mainstream genres of music, such as free jazz, hip hop, noise, world/global, electronica, soundscapes, experimental folk and musique actuelle. Running from June 4-24, it will feature hundreds of shows staged in the small, intimate setting of Casa Del Popolo.

http://casadelpopolo.com

Grand Prix

If luxury, glamour and an all-out 72 hours of crazy fun are what you are after and that culminates into the high-stakes drama of Formula 1 racing, look no further than North America's only Grand Prix June 6-8.

This event isn't just about the race but the whole whirlwind experience of an international audience hitting Montreal for three days of cars, street parties, exclusive clubs, and expensive restaurants.

The weekend of fun peaks Sunday with the race on Circuit Gilles Villeneuve.

www.grandprixmontreal.com

Montreal Beer Festival

Whether you are a beer aficionado or just want to learn more about ales, stouts, pilsners, ambers, summer brews and novelty beers (or at least what the difference is between them), check out the Mondial de la bière in Montreal.

Running June 11-15 at Palais des Congrès, this beer-tasting event has become the most important international beer fest in North America (according to them.

Friendly and fun for the novice but also an educational experience for those in the know or in the industry, the event is a great way to learn about the local brewing industry.

The event also serves as a conference for those in the industry and provides workshops on tastings/pairings as well as how to cook with the products.

http://festivalmondialbiere.qc.ca

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Festival International Montréal en Arts

If you've ever wanted to take in thousands of pieces of art under the open sky, the Festival International Montréal en Arts is the best open-air event in Canada.

Held June 11-15, this free downtown outdoor art gallery, known as the "BoulevArt", is a cordoned-off stretch of Sainte-Catherine Street that is transformed by a series of kiosks, tents and work stations to present works by hundreds of artists, all for sale.

The event also features short film screenings, multimedia performances, immersive installations, live painting, craft work demonstrations and a series of multidisciplinary performances.

www.festivaldesarts.org

Les FrancoFolies

The biggest festival of francophone music in the world, Les Francofolies kicks off on June 12 and runs until June 22. It is the first of the major Montreal festivals of the season that feature large outdoor free shows.

Serving up the best of French-language pop, rock, folk, hip-hop, jazz, world music, musical theatre and just about any other genre you can think of that francophones could perform or write, this festival has expanded into one of city's biggest and best parties of the year.

While there will be hundreds of acts, here is a smidgeon of performers to whet your appetite: Valérie Carpentier, Plaza Francia, Catherine Ringer (Les Rita Mitsouko), Grand Corps Malade, Radio Radio, Pierre Kwenders, Ima, Zaz, Benoît Paradis Trio, Rachid Taha, Yasmine Hamdan, Manu Militari, Les sœurs Boulay, Fauve, Koriass orchestral, Corneille, Alex Nevsky, Éléphant, Jérôme Minière, La Rue Ketanou, Lost Bayou Ramblers, Dead Obies, K6A, Les Innocents, Jason Bajada, Michel Faubert, and Monogrenade.

www.francofolies.com/

Montreal Folk Fest on the Canal

Those looking for an easy, breezy atmosphere to enjoy a music festival will find the Montreal Folk Fest on the Canal to be earnest, intimate and picturesque.

Running June 18-22, the line-up includes Patty Griffin, Mark Berube and Eric Andersen, Besnard Lakes, Bry Webb, Jenn Grant, Mo Kenney, Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra, Forêt, Sarah MacDougall, Li'l Andy, Frank Fairfield, Eliza Gilkyson, and Yves Lambert Trio.

Not to be missed is a special Tom Waits tribute night dubbed "The Heart of Friday Night" that will feature among others Patrick Watson, Leif Vollebekk and Li'l Andy.

http://montrealfolkfest.com

National Aboriginal Day

The folks over at the Montreal First People's Festival have been putting on a special celebration for National Aboriginal Day in Montreal have earned a great reputation for their splendid work.

Featuring a ceremony that celebrates the solstice on June 21, with Native drummers, traditional dancing and signing, and art, this is a great opportunity for Montrealers and tourists to learn and celebrate Native culture.

http://www.nativelynx.qc.c/

La Fête nationale du Québec à Montréal

Always a great party and the perfect opportunity to don whatever blue-and-white you have hanging around in your wardrobe, Quebec's birthday party is a slam-dunk when it comes to getting the nationalist spirit going.

With all sorts of live entertainment, a parade and street parties, this year's line-up has yet to be announced but it usually fits the bill of what a large national celebration should look like.

fetenationale-montreal.qc.ca

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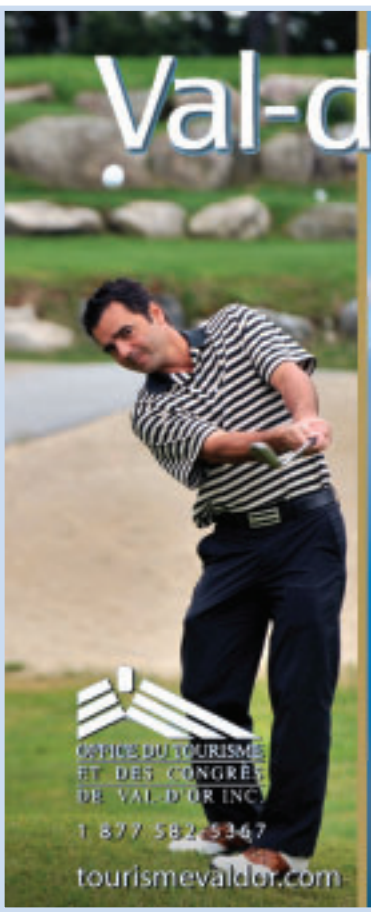

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Elvis Costello is at the Jazz Fest

Montreal International Jazz Festival

This event is the biggest blowout that the city has to offer and, as the Montreal International Jazz Festival is turning 35 this year, its blowout will be bigger and better than ever before.

Running June 26-July 6, the indoor concert schedule has already been announced. It's full of the biggest names in jazz, blues, pop, funk, reggae, and international beats. To name a few: Diana Ross, Keith Jarrett, Michael Bublé, Terence Blanchard, Rufus Wainwright, Trombone Shorty, Marcus Miller, Katie Melua, Jack DeJohnette, Earth, Wind & Fire, Tony Bennett, Ben Harper, Ginger Baker, Brad Mehldau, Aretha Franklin, Elvis Costello and Bobby McFerrin.

Then there are some very special musical mélanges that are once-in-a-lifetime events like Daniel Lanois playing with Emmylou Harris and Trixie Whitley.

Beck is going to play a special pre-festival show on June 25.

Big band fans can enjoy the most epic Battle of the Bands ever, with the Glenn Miller Orchestra facing off against Tommy Dorsey Orchestra.

Frank Zappa fans can renew their quirky musical memories as Dweezil Zappa hosts Zappa Plays Zappa, a retrospective of his father's work.

Celebrating 30 years since the release of their debut album, Violent Femmes will take to the stage July 3 to celebrate three decades in the music industry.

www.montrealjazzfest.com

Canada Day

Kicking July off with a bang, Montreal celebrates in red and white in the city's Old Port, with a day-and-night party that fun for people of all ages – from birthday cake for the little ones to a large dance party that culminates in fireworks.

This event features all sorts of rides and bouncy castles for the kids, dance lessons for anyone who wants to partake, loads of live music, street food, face painting and lots of maple leaf flags.

www.canadadaymontreal.org

TOHU International Festival of Circus Arts

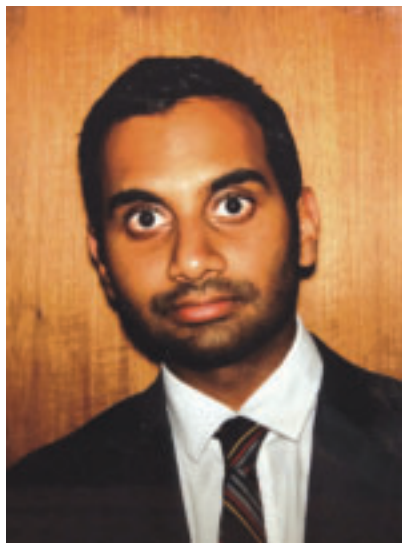
As Montreal has more circus schools per capita than anywhere else, it should come as no surprise that we have a special festival geared at celebrating this – and employing these people.

Now in its fifth edition, this festival keeps growing every year and brings some the best talent that the circus world has to offer to Montreal while showcasing the best of our local talent. This year acts from the rest of Canada, France and Australia, who will be running, jumping, spinning and spiralling out into the universe from July 2-13.

http://montrealcirquefest.com

Just For Laughs

No doubt the largest and possibly the best comedy festival in the world, some of the most brilliant



Aziz Ansari is at Just for Laughs

comics of modern times have performed at Just for Laughs, as it is a benchmark of success to be invited to perform at this show.

This year's headliners include: Don Rickles, Seth Rogen, Andy Samberg, Aziz Ansari, Russell Peters, the cast Brooklyn Nine-Nine, Bill Burr, Lewis Black, Nick Offerman, Kate McKinnon, Broad City, Ron White, Jim Jefferies, Marc Maron, Mike Birbiglia, Tommy Tiernan, Doug Benson, Jim Norton, Chelsea Peretti, Noel Fielding, TJ Miller, Chris D'Elia, Jimmy Carr, Kathleen Madigan, Kumail Nanjiani, Paul F. Tompkins, Miranda Sings, Pete Holmes and Nick Thune.

Also, not to be missed are JFL's traditional club shows, a series that is always one of the fest's biggest draws.

Guaranteed to push even some of the dirtiest minds, Bobby Slayton will host this year's Nasty Show for those not offended by comics who will challenge your definition of the term "potty mouth."

Persian comic Maz Jobrani will helm this year's Ethnic Show, a showcase of comedians who like to poke fun at their own ethnic backgrounds.

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And, for those who love love or can't figure out why everybody else loves it, Godfrey will host the Relationship Show, a showcase of comics who dish the dirty deets on their (dys)functional relationships.

www.hahaha.com/en

Fantasia Film Festival

Come mid-July everyone is looking for a break from the city's oppressive heat and there is no better place than the cinemas.

But, if you've already seen all of the big blockbusters and are in need of some new genres to entertain yourself, look no further than Montreal's Fantasia Film Festival as it celebrates some of the best Asian films and lesser known films from the US, Europe and the world.

Fantasia is known for celebrating old cult classics by offering fans the opportunity to view them on the big screen. A competitive film festival and a fan celebration alike, this is a wonderful dose of culture to enjoy while chilling indoors.

www.fantasiafestival.co0419\m/2014/en/pre-festival

Festival international Nuits d'Afrique

Montreal's major African-roots music festival runs July 8-20, and will feature more than 100 shows and activities with performers from 30 countries, including big-name acts from Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America.

With the recent passing of Nelson Mandela, the 28th annual Nuits d'Afrique is dedicated to the late great South African statesman.

Featuring a wide variety of music, visual arts, dance and a film festival, the event hosts five days of free shows and activities for the entire family in the downtown festival space at Quartier des spectacles July 16-20. This will feature the Bal de l'Afrique enchantée, a series of special concerts, plus dance and music workshops as well as the famous Timbuktu Market.

credit: Jean Marc Beaudouin

Festival international Nuits d'Afrique

www.festivalnuitsdafrique.com

Montreal Children's Festival

A fest that celebrates life for those under the age of 12, this Parc Jean Drapeau spectacular focuses on fun for the little ones and those who love them July 19-20.

Featuring a wide array of cultural, sports, educational and awareness-creating activities, this family-fun fest will keep the kids on their toes as they learn, dance, sing and play.

Also well set up for parents, there's everything from nursing stations to bottle-warming facilities and lots of spots to snack and cool off.

www.parcjeandrapeau.com/events/fete-des-enfants-de-montreal/

Montreal Electronic Groove

A midsummer celebration of electronic music and everything that comes with it,

Montreal Electronic Groove has been producing some of the best far-out and fabulous electronic shows for the last 16 years.

Running July 24-August 5, this year's line-up includes Navet Confit, Les Anticipateurs, The Posterz, Danger, Foxtrott, the Driver, Mozart's Sister, Suuns, Acid Arab and ST.LÔ.

www.megmontreal.com

The Montreal Dragon Boat Challenge

Once a celebration of Chinese culture and dragon-boat racing, the Montreal Dragon Boat Challenge has become the new face of the event and it is now all about the race.

Held in the Olympic Basin July 26-27, it is the biggest annual gathering of dragon-boat teams in Montreal and this year's event will include teams from Ontario, the Maritimes, and the US.

h2oplayground.com/en/evenement/montreal_dragon_boat_challenge

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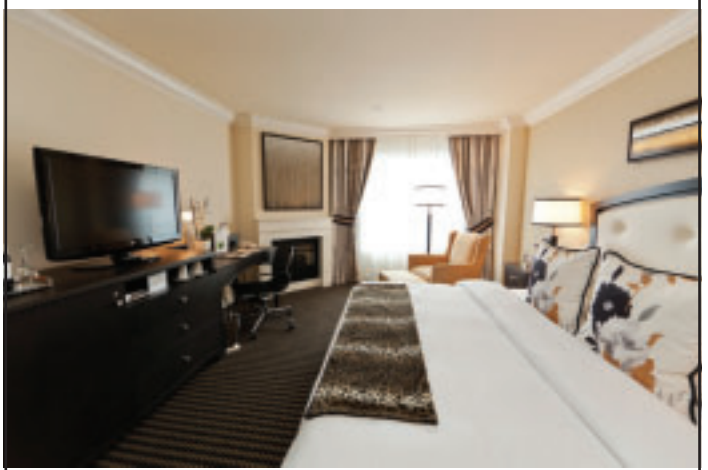

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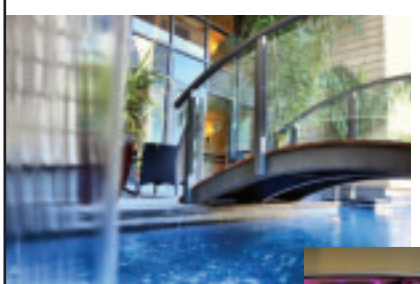

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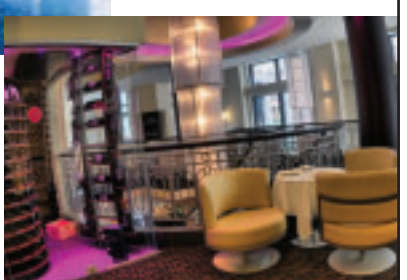

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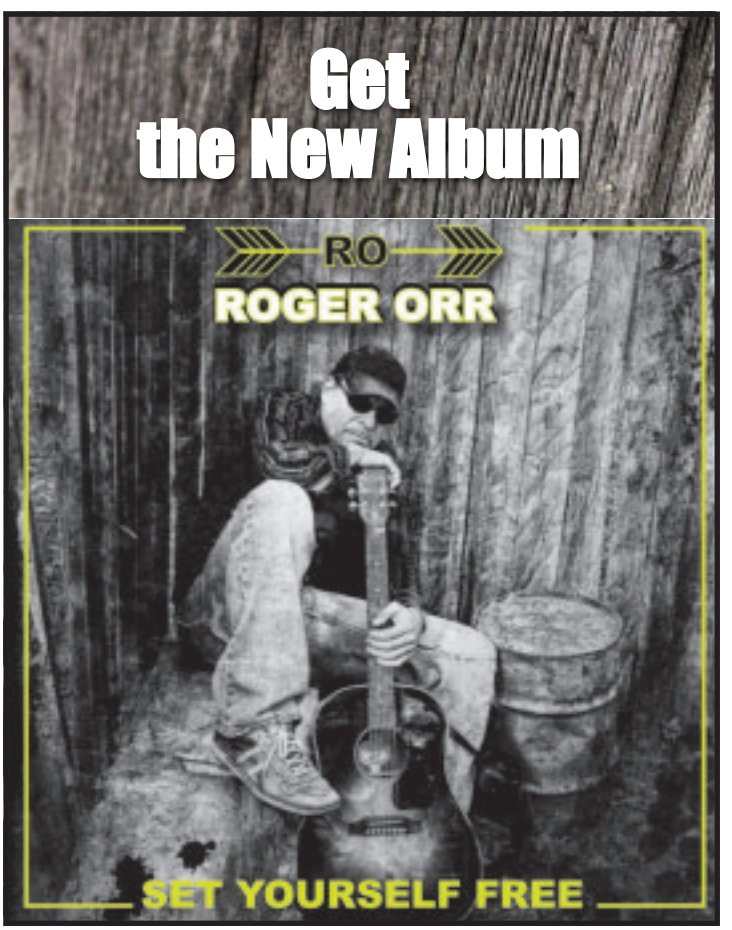

Divers/Cité

Montreal gets painted rainbow colours for Gay Pride Week as the city celebrates the diversity of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community with an unforgettable non-stop bash with great entertainment July 28-August 3.

For 22 years this Pride has featured dance parties, drag shows and rockin' outdoor concerts. For the last few years these events have been held in the city's Old Port to accommodate the thousands who come out for the party.

This festival of music, entertainment, culture and pride isn't exclusively for the gay community as everyone is welcome to party and live it up.

www.diverscite.org

Serena Williams returns to the Roger's Cup

Presence Autochtone/ Terre en Vue/Land InSights Aboriginal Festival

An all-out celebration of the artistic talents of Indigenous people, Presence Autochtone, Montreal's First People's festival is put on by a team of Aboriginals from various local Nations to bring the very best of Aboriginal film, dance, song and traditional arts to Montreal festival-goers.

Running July 31-August 5, this happening is comprised of a film-and-video festival, outdoor shows and film screenings in Place des Festivals and a meeting of Indigenous cultures from around the world.

www.nativelynx.qc.ca/

Osheaga

Montreal's answer to indie music festivals like Coachella, Wakarusa and Sasquatch, Osheaga is the only event of its kind in this part of the country and with three days of some of the most cutting edge, classic and iconic bands playing, it is for some the experience of a lifetime.

Running August 1-3 on multiple stages in Parc Jean Drapeau, this year brings some major heavy hitters as well as some rising stars to town.

This year's lineup includes such acts as: Outkast, Jack White, Arctic Monkeys, Skrillex, Lorde, The Replacements, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, Foster the People, Modest Mouse, J. Cole, Chase & Status, Awolnation, Lykke Li, Childish Gambino, Half Moon Run, Chromeo, Chvrches, Kodaline, Band of Horses, Laurent Garnier, Haim, SBTRKT, The Kooks, AFI, Tiga, Sam Roberts Band, The Glitch Mob, Gogol Bordello, Old Crow Medicine Show, Danny Brown, Hey Rosetta!, Manchester Orchestra, Serena Ryder, Kevin Drew, Ryan Hemsworth, Cyril Hahn, Basia Bulat, St. Lucia, Kate Nash, White Denim, The Dismemberment Plan and Jimmy Hunt.

www.osheaga.com

Roger's Cup

The best women tennis players in the world will descend upon Montreal's Jarry Park for the 2014 edition of the Roger's Cup August 1-10.

Whether you are new to watching tennis or are one of its biggest fans, it is hard to beat the atmosphere at Uniprix Stadium's outdoor seating while taking in the thrill of one of sport's fastest games.

The world's top 10 female players: Serena Williams, Victoria Azarenka, Na Li, Maria Sharapova, Agnieszka Radwanska, Petra Kvitova, Sara Errani, Jelena Jankovic, Angelique Kerber and Caroline Wozniacki have all committed to the cup this year so expect 2014 to be one of the most mind-blowing tournaments ever.

www.rogerscup.com/

The Montreal Highland Games

For those in the Cree Nation who have felt a desire to find out more about Scottish culture, as so many in

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the north have the odd drop of Scottish blood coursing through their veins, the Montreal Highland Games is a perfect opportunity to do just that.

Featuring bagpipes and highland dancing competitions as well as Celtic sporting events like caber tossing, sheaf toss, putting the stone, and the hammer toss, this is a magical event.

Besides its beer and whiskey tents, there are lots vendors selling Celtic goods and food as well as numerous Celtic musicians.

montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca

Montreal Tango Festival

If you happen to be a fan of one of the world's most seductive dances or would like to have a first-time experience enjoying a tango dance show, this festival is for you.

Featuring 52 shows, 12 dancers, six milongas, two shows and one orchestra, this event will not only show you the moves, but it will capture your heart.

Running August 5-10, if you've ever wanted to tango or just get a peek at it up close, this is the ultimate way to experience it.

www.fitm.ca

FestiBlues

For those sad souls who swoon to the blues, there is no better time to visit Montreal than August 8-11 when FestiBlues puts on over 90 shows on large outdoor stages and indoor clubs.

Located in picturesque Parc Ahuntsic in north Montreal, this event embodies all of the professionalism of a big Montreal festival in a much more intimate setting. The perfect antithesis to August's lazy, hazy days, these sultry sounds will have just about anyone's hips swaying to the blues or blues-related music.

www.festiblues.com

Metallica graces the Heavy Montreal festival

Italian Week

If you happen to be in the city August 8-17, it will be worth your while to head up to Montreal's Little Italy district to take in one of the many cultural events happening and sample some spectacular Italian fare.

Featuring everything from free outdoor opera shows to comedy acts, children's entertainment, bouncy castles and all sorts of opportunities to become better acquainted with Italian culture, this family friendly event is a free street party anyone can go to.

Shop for fine Italian shoes while munching on a canolli (ricotta pastry) and perusing the Ducatis and Fiats on display.

http://italianweek.ca/en/

Heavy Montreal

Montreal's biggest and baddest heavy music festival, Heavy Montreal brings a weekend of hardcore and head-banging fun to Parc Jean Drapeau.

Running August 9-10 with special events happening in Montreal on August 8, this year's line-up is studded with leather-clad legends.

They include Metallica, Slayer, The Offspring, Lamb of God, Anthrax, Twisted Sister, Bad Religion, Three Days Grace, Voivod, D.R.I., Dropkick Murphys, Epica, Apocalyptica, Pennywise, Hatebreed, Exodus, Alestorm, Body Count, Overkill, GrimSkunk, Whitechapel, Nashville Pussy, Monster Truck, Unearth and Madball.

http://heavymontreal.com

Montreal International Reggae Festival

Running August 15-17 in the Old Port of Montreal, this is the opportunity to enjoy three days of laidback fun set to island beats under the warm sun.

While Montreal may not be the Caribbean, this is a great opportunity to hear the music that has emerged from there and party down to it.

montrealinternationalreggaefestival.com

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Montreal's 18th Century Public Market

The Montreal Fashion and Design Festival

For those with a flare for design and an eye for fashion, there is no better event to take in than Montreal's Montreal Fashion and Design Festival as it showcases the best of local design August 20-23.

Feast your eyes on a downtown outdoor runway as sashaying models show off the latest collections amid a myriad of flashbulbs while the too-cool-for-school of the fashionista crowd looks on.

Blending mediums, the event brings together the leading international fashion labels, a host of renowned national designers, cutting-edge shows, design in real time, and countless special events, all set in a one-of-a-kind ambiance on McGill College Avenue (the makeshift runway), this is a truly inspiring event.

http://festivalmodedesign.com

Otakuthon

For lovers of Asian animae and the crazy culture that has evolved around it, Otakuthon is back for its annual two-day event at Montreal's Palais des Congrès.

For lovers of cosplay (dressing up as your favourite anime character), this event offers everything from karaoke to human chess to dance parties.

It also features anime screenings, all sorts of contests and competitions, gaming events, shopping and trading opportunities. So if you are into anime, August 22-24 is your time to shine.

www.otakuthon.com/2014/

Montreal World Film Festival

Hollywood stars will have the Montreal paparazzi in a frenzy August 21-September 1 as films from around the world premiere and compete at the Montreal World Film Festival.

While it may not be the landmark celebrity event that Toronto gets just weeks later, this festival is often the only time and place to see some of these works of cinematic art and many big-name Hollywood films have actually opened here in the past.

www.ffm-montreal.org

Montreal's 18th Century Public Market

For two time-travelling days, the Old Port's Pointe-à-Callière's Archeology Museum transforms the surrounding blocks into a marvellous and surprisingly authentic 18th century public market August 23-24.

With stalls selling everything from market vegetables to handmade goods, like candles and confections, visitors can sit down for a beverage and listen to musicians playing music from that era or the cultural animations that tell the story of this historic experience.

For children and adults alike, there is a lot to see, feel, touch and taste at this wonderful learning experience.

http://pacmusee.qc.ca

Fun in the ROQ

The Rest of Quebec offers a more human pace to summer celebration

The Gatineau Beerfest

A fairly new event to the Quebec festival scene, Gatineau's Festibière is a three-day outdoor party in Jacques-Cartier Park that brought out about 35,000 partygoers last year to sample local artisanal beer products.

Now in its 3rd edition, this laid-back event is all about bringing together artisans and local produce and showcasing beer and food pairings in an outdoor country atmosphere May 30-June 1.

www.festibieredegatineau.ca/

Festival International DansEncore

Fans of dance and fellow dancers can rejoice June 5-8 when Trois-Rivières celebrates the 20th edition of Quebec's largest and most diverse dance festival.

Saint-Honoré dans l'Vent Kite Festival

Featuring gala events, competitions, master classes, dance parties and free outdoor entertainment, this event makes Trois-Rivières an important festival destination.

For its 20th anniversary, the festival has invited guests from all over the world and will feature over 200 artists from Quebec, Canada, the US, Cuba, Mexico, Australia, Italy and Hong Kong.

www.dansencore.ca/

International Miniature Art Biennial of Abitibi-Témiscamingue

For those who love tiny art pieces or just want to see something fascinating and out of the ordinary, the Miniature Art Biennial is back in the town of Ville-Marie. Running June 6-September 29, these magnificent miniatures are for big imaginations.

www.lerift.ca/#rift5-frnpage1

Fête de la pêche

While fishing may not need its own festival, this event is about getting those who live in Quebec out on the water to experience fishing wherever they would like to without a fishing license.

Running June 6-8, this event is an open season for fishing neophytes to drop their line anywhere in the province without the need to purchase a fishing license. You could discover a new spot to test the waters that you may never have dreamed about.

www.fetedelapeche.gouv.qc.ca/

The Lilac Festival

While it may lack the bells and whistles of some of the bigger, corporate-run festivals in the province, Le Festival du Temps des Lilas (or the Lilac Festival) at Les Jardins du cap à l'Aigle in La Malbaie is all about enjoying the scents and sights of one of the best lilac collections in Canada.

Take in the serene beauty of these trees while experiencing the cultural and horticultural activities, as well as live paintings of the scenery and shows. Breathtaking and unique, this event runs June 7-8.

www.villagedeslilas.com

The Windsor Paper Festival

If you happen to be in the Eastern Townships or are researching a trip for its many vineyards, luscious lakes and spectacular scenery, this quaint event offers an event stepped in Quebec's industrial history.

Running June 12-15, this country festival is all about paper and the unique things that can be done with it. You and your family can take in buskers, inflatable games, shows, fireworks, exhibitors as well as a paper fashion show and a variety of other products made to celebrate paper.

www.villedewindsor.qc.ca/festival-du-papier

Victoriaville Cheese Festival

One of Quebec's most renowned regions for the sheer quality of the milk products, the Victoriaville Cheese Festival – June 12-15 – showcases local dairy flavours.

With over 100 varieties of cheese and other local or "terroir" products to sample, wine and cheese pairing events, workshops on cheeses and cheese making, and circus entertainers for the kids, this tasty event seems anything but "cheesy."

www.festivaldesfromages.qc.ca/

Saint-Honoré dans l'Vent Kite Festival

A bold, beautiful festival that is as boundless as the sky, the Saint-Honoré dans l'Vent Kite Festival brings with it a bounty of family fun June 13-15.

This international kite festival brings kite-flying professionals and enthusiasts from around the globe to compete and show off their skills and collections.

At the same time, this being a family-oriented fest, there are plenty of children's activities to keep the little tykes happy as well as baby stations for feedings and changes, various locations to buy snacks and even a set up for trailers if you want to stay a few days.

www.danslvent.com

The James Bay Walleye Fishing Tournament

A big hit among the Crees and the non-Natives who head to Chapais to participate in this festival, this walleye fishing event is back June 19-28 for the best fishermen in the region to show off their skills.

Now in its 15th edition, this event features multiple categories to participate in and prizes that include a Pinecraft Super Pro 176 2014 with an outboard motor valued at $41,000.

This year's tournament features all sorts of activities for the participants and their families to keep them busy when they aren't on the waters. There is loads of live entertainment, including the Cover Girls, Styx tribute band the Grand Illusion, a Texas Hold'em tournament, Bon Jovi cover band, Runaway, a dance party night with DJ BLAAS, and an entire weekend of Fête nationale activities.

www.festivaldudore.com

Beauce Carnival in Chibougamau

The Beauce Carnival will be in Chibougamau June 19-22 for those who want to help the kids celebrate the end of the school year. There are carnival rides, a midway and all sorts of fun and entertainment.

www.beaucecarnaval.com/

The Amnesia Rockfest

Held June 20-21, this two-day event brings the best of two incredible worlds together: a major outdoor music festival that features some of the hottest bands around

Canada's electoral map is changing and Elections Canada is seeking a

Returning Officer

Your opportunity to serve democracy in

- *Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou*

Qualifications

To work as a returning officer, you must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, and live in the federal riding where you're applying to work.

Your job is to manage the election in your riding. The work is varied, challenging and rewarding. If you have project management experience, with strong skills in finance and human resources, this may be the job for you.

Pay Rates and Work Conditions

Pay rates are set by regulation. The current fee for an election period is about $24,250. You can expect to work close to 500 hours in the year leading up to an election, at a rate of $48.04 per hour. (These rates are under review.)

Returning officers are appointed for a 10-year term. During this time, you must remain non-partisan.

How to Apply

Go to www.elections.ca and click on "Employment" to complete an application form or to find out more about the job and the new riding boundaries. You can also call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 for more details.

Applications must be received by midnight on May 23, 2014.

.elections.ca.

Elections Canada

Elections Canada is an independent body set up by Parliament to conduct federal elections, by-elections and referendums.

and an excuse to stay in one of Quebec's most fabulous resorts, the Fairmount Chateau Montebello.

Now in its 9th edition, this outstanding rock festival is set to rattle your eardrums with a high-decibel combination punch of hard rock, metal and punk. This event is a huge draw for heavy music fans.

The lineup features: Blink-182, Weezer, NOFX, Megadeth, Billy Talent, Primus, Alice in Chains, Five Finger Death Punch, Cypress Hill, A Day to Remember, Danzig with Doyle, Mastodon, the Used, Brand New, Taking Back Sunday, Joan Jett, Reverend Horton Heat, Lagwagon, Me First and the Gimme Gimmes, Streetlight Manifesto, Reel Big Fish, Goldfinger, Face to Face, Strung Out, Anti-Flag, MXPX, the Vandals, Guttermouth, Alkaline Trio, New Found Glory, the Casualties, Cock Sparrer, Black Flag, Fear, the Misfits, Dead Kennedys, Henry Rollins, Suicidal Tendencies, Bigwig, 88 Fingers Louie, Reset, Despised Icon, Venom, Meshuggah, Cradle of Filth, Cannibal Corpse and August Burns Red.

www.amnesiarockfest.com

Festival forestier de Senneterre

The perfect festival for lumberjacks (professionals and amateurs) and those who just want to try their hand at it for kicks, this Senneterre event is all about being a lumberjack and celebrating the culture that surrounds it.

Now in its 20th edition, expect a bigger blowout than ever, with live entertainment nightly and loads of competitions and family activities to keep everyone there on their toes.

This year's live entertainment includes: Tendence Alcoolique (Johnny Cash cover band), Bob Bisonette, Jérôme Couture (La Voix), Jean-Marc Couture, Andie Duquette and 21 Gun Salute (AC/DC tribute).

There is also loads of live entertainment for children, and a mega draw for over $42,000 in prizes.

http://festivalforestier.ca

Festival de la truite mouchetée

Festival de la truite mouchetée

Ultimately the biggest fishing tournament in Quebec, competitive trout fishers can bust out their best rods and reels and hit Saint-Alexis-des-Monts in the Mauricie region for a weeklong event that's all about brook trout.

Running June 21-29, this fishy fun event also features lots of live entertainment to keep the nights rockin' and loads of family activities to keep everyone who isn't in the boat pleased.

festivaldelatruitemouchetee.com

Woodstock en Beauce

A youth-driven music festival done in the vein of the historic 1969 Woodstock music festival, this party is about getting down to the music while enjoying the spirit of summer.

Running June 25-29, this site accommodates thousands of campers who stay at the event for days to keep the party going.

www.woodstockenbeauce.qc.ca

Festival des camionneurs de La Doré

If your whole life ethic is to just keep on truckin' or you just really like trucks, why not check out La Doré's truck festival June 26-29?

Featuring all kinds of truck-related fun like thrilling truck pulls and a parade featuring more than 250 rigs, this event features lots of entertainment and activities for kids as well as nightly musical performances. Plus there is $127,000 in prizes to be won.

festivaldescamionneurs.qc.ca

L'Estival Rotary Desjardins

The Beauce Carnival's big stop in Amos, this great big party runs June 26-28 and is a smash hit in the region.

Featuring lots of classic carnival rides for the little ones and the bigger little ones…and adults who like that kind of thing, this event also features bingo, shows and all of the typical carnival fun that comes with it.

www.estivalrotary.com

The Gatineau Crazy Races

The Gatineau Crazy Races

Looking for something that's about ingenuity and fun in the Gatineau region, then check out the Crazy Races, an event that features lots of soapbox races for the young and old June 27-28 and July 5.

Featuring a big-top opening show, an international championship, boat races and sand sculpture contests, this event encompasses old world wholesomeness while celebrating mad creativity.

www.lescoursesenfolie.com

International Garden Festival

If you are looking for a magical world that you can just step into and feel transported to somewhere otherworldly, this Grand-Métis festival is about taking in breathtaking gardens that have been created by visual artists, architects and landscape artists from around the world.

A spectacular feast for the eyes, this event runs all summer long from June 28 to September 28 and is an ultimate must for art lovers who happen to be in the Gaspésie region

www.refordgardens.com

Le FestiVoix de Trois-Rivières

Looking for a large music fest that features a genre for everyone, then check out the FestiVoix de Trois-Rivières with over 100 shows on 13 stages, and a multitude of voices.

Running July 1-13, this big and bountiful event serves up a solid dose of jazz, pop, opera, rock, musical and even choral performances. It is an opportunity to hear music from around the globe, in the heart of the Mauricie region.

www.festivoix.com

Festival d'humour de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Those who appreciate a good joke en français should look no further than Val d'Or's major comedy gathering, the Festival d'humour de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

Running July 2-6, this event draws hundreds of entertainers to Sin City North for a series on indoor and outdoor shows, as thousands of festival-goers gather to for laughs and good times.

www.festivaldhumour.com

Mondial des Cultures de Drummondville

Running July 3-13, Drummondville's folk dancing festival brings hundreds of performers from around the world to share their traditional dances in a spectacular array of colour and sound.

Since July 1982, this unique event has attracted thousands to the region to experience the cultures of many nations. For their 27th edition, expect the unexpected with a larger show than before as folk dancers from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and North America take the stage.

www.mondialdescultures.com

Tremblant International Blues Festival

Mont Tremblant is already synonymous with a non-stop party atmosphere but when you impose their International Blues Festival onto the town, things really begin to heat up.

With more than 130 free shows to enjoy July 4-13, expect this party town to be rocking, rolling and ultimately bluesing it up with some big names and even bigger surprises.

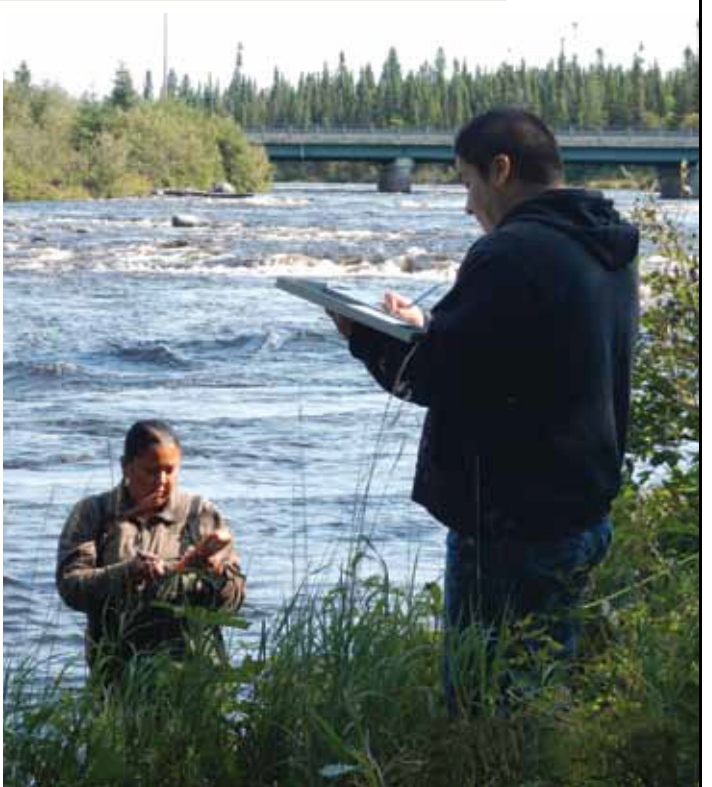
www.tremblantblues.com

Blaze new trails with the NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Our program is specifically designed for Cree needs, including:

- **Instruction in English**
- **Emphasis on Cree traditional knowledge, with some lessons even given by Cree elders**
- **Support measures for students and their families to help adapt to living in Chibougamau**
- **Field courses where you learn about nature IN nature**
- **Paid job placements with environmental companies**
- **Help ensure the protection of Cree lands for future generations.**

SEE HOW YOU CAN LEARN



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August Festival

August Festival, the biggest music event that Chibougamau has to offer, runs July 31-August 3 and features nightly entertainment on an outdoor stage.

This year will feature about 75 artists from the region and a bevy of other activities that include a family day, fireworks set to music, and a beach volleyball tournament.

www.ville.chibougamau.qc.ca

Truck Rodeo

Set right in the heart of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Notre-Dame-du-Nord's Truck Rodeo is one of the most popular events in the north and features all sorts of truck-related competitions such as a show-and-shine, truck pulls and races in a heavyweight category.

Running July 31-August 3, this festival also features a flea market, all sorts of family activities and nightly entertainment. The lineup this year includes: Les 8 sourcils, Les Murdochs, Drivin, Tumbleweed, Lipstick Rodeo, Roadrunner, Moonshiner and Cherry Chérie.

http://elrodeo.com

Festival Western de Guigues

Running August 5-10, this country-and-western festival in Abitibi-Témiscamingue's Saint-Bruno-de-Guigues not only features a rodeo but also all sorts of other elements of country culture.

With a gymkhana, heavy horses, western performance, activities for children, exhibitors, line-dancing courses and all sorts of nightly entertainment to put those dance lessons to use, this festival is about immersing its visitors in as much country-and-western culture as they can handle.

So, don your Stetson and get down in a country town for old-time fun.

festivalwesterndeguigues.com

The Gatineau Crazy Races

SAQ New France Festival

If you ever wanted to go back in time to find out about what 1608 was really like in Quebec City, the SAQ New France Festival is about celebrating the history of Quebec.

Running August 6-10, this event features over 1000 artists in everything from historical animation and street entertainment to dance, parades, and shows.

Patrons of this event are encouraged to dress up in period clothes and become part of the event as they tour Old Quebec and learn about what life was like in the 17th and 18th centuries.

www.nouvellefrance.qc.ca

Pyromusical Festival in Abitibi-Témiscamingue - Osisko en lumière

This major northern festival is all about synching up an outdoor live music stage show to major fireworks in a brilliant display of light and sound.

Running August 8-10, the event has become one of Rouyn-Noranda's biggest parties of the year and welcomes thousands to the event. Featuring all sorts of family activities during the day, this festival has something to appeal to people of all ages.

This year's special guests will include: Bodh'aktan, Studio 48, Marco Callari, A Lady Gaga tribute, and Foreigner's Lou Gramm.

www.osiskoenlumiere.com/

International de montgolfières de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu's world famous hot-air balloon festival is one of the most breathtaking events of the entire festival season as it is the only one that fills the sky with such a surreal and brilliant array of shapes and colours that you can actually get into for a tour.

Featuring hundreds of balloons from all around the world August 9-17, visitors can take tours in them or take part in the loads of other fun and entertainment provided at the festival site.

When nighttime rolls around, the site heats up with live shows. The lineup to date includes Quebec singing sensations Marie-Mai and Louis-Jean Cormier (La Voix fame).

www.montgolfieres.com

Beware the fine print

Taking issue with the price of life insurance sold by car dealers

by Jesse Staniforth

Sometimes the devil is in the fine print. Other times, however, you sign up for something that seems perfectly reasonable, only to learn later that the real price is far more than you're willing to pay. That's what happened to Bill Namagoose, Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees, when he was preparing to co-sign a car sale contract with Amos' Automobiles Carella Honda for his cousin Harvey Whiskeychan.

On financing papers for a 2013 Chevrolet Suburban, sold for $44,500 (plus over $4,700 in additional fees and add-ons), Namagoose discovered Line 8a, for life insurance on the vehicle. This would have provided, at most, the replacement cost for a new vehicle – some $50,000 – in case of an accident during the eight-year period of the loan on the truck. It would also, in the event that Namagoose or Whiskeychan died before their debt to Automobiles Carella was paid, have paid off any amount remaining of that total debt, whether the full $50,000 or any smaller amount. This deal sounded good until Namagoose looked at the numbers: the price for the insurance alone was $9,543.91, and there were additional credit fees on top of it that added up to a total of $12,147.67.

"Harvey faxed me the material," Namagoose said. "That's when I saw that $12,000 charge. It was a really outrageous amount."

Namagoose said his first thought was to find out of this is what life insurance usually cost. So he approached Sun Life, not explaining the situation, but simply asking what it would cost to buy $100,000 in comparable life insurance over a 10-year period. Sun Life replied, simply enough, that it would cost $12.79 per month, for a total of $1,534.80 – nearly eight times less than the cost of insuring a vehicle worth half that amount through the dealership.

"To me, it was attempted robbery," Namagoose said bluntly. He confronted insurance salesperson Caroline Nolet, demanding the charge be removed. "She didn't make a big deal when I asked her to eliminate it. She didn't fight me at all. But when I talked to the guy before, he said Harvey 'had agreed to protect his family.' That's bullshit."

Namagoose was, and remains, convinced that such inflated insurance pricing is unfair, and he decided to fight it. Contacting the Quebec Consumer Protection Office, he was told that it was not a consumer affair, and that the Insurance Bureau of Canada would have to look into it.

The Nation contacted that organization, only to be told that they could not understand the contract. We were referred to the National Bank, which provided the financing. However, a representative from the National Bank washed their hands of the issue, saying they did not underwrite the insurance.

Finally, a call to Automobiles Carella settled the confusion. Antoine Sylvestre was the sales representative who sold the Suburban to Whiskeychan.

"We sell that life insurance for Industrial Alliance, and that's the price [they give us]," Sylvestre told the Nation. "Harvey Whiskeychan said that he wanted to buy a Suburban, and said he has a family. We asked him, 'Do you want the life insurance and everything?' He said, 'Yes, I want the best.' So we put the life insurance. Then his cousin, Bill Namagoose, told me that he didn't need it. So we just removed it from the contract."

Automobiles Carella's insurance salesperson, Caroline Nolet, said insurance pricing is entirely beyond the control of her dealership.

She explained, "In essence, how it works is, when I enter an amount, for example with Bill his vehicle that was roughly $50,000, I simply click on a tab reading 'Life Insurance,' and the life insurance is calculated based on the amount of financing. It's not an amount that we have access to change."

Insurance amounts are only determined by Industrial Alliance insurers, said Nolet. "It would be totally impossible, let's imagine, for me to sell you insurance at $3,000 instead of $5,000. I have absolutely no access to that. I can't do discounts or anything. All I can say is that you have the option to take it or not to take it."

Nolet notes that several factors contributed to the surprising cost of insurance on Whiskeychan's Suburban: it was not only life insurance, but also disability insurance, and insured the full replacement value of the vehicle in the event of an accident. As well, she underlined, the fact that there were officially two owners of the vehicle meant that the insurance was applied to both of them, and therefore cost twice as much.

"To me, it was attempted robbery," Namagoose said bluntly. He confronted insurance salesperson Caroline Nolet, demanding the charge be removed. "She didn't make a big deal when I asked her to eliminate it. She didn't fight me at all. But when I talked to the guy before, he said Harvey 'had agreed to protect his family.' That's bullshit."

However, she could not explain why it cost eight times as much to get life insurance on a $50,000 vehicle over eight years than it did to buy life insurance for $100,000 over a decade.

"That's not how it works," she said. "We can't really get started down that path. It's really not the same product. We're not talking about life insurance for a house – we're talking about life insurance for a car, over a short period."

When pressed to explain the large discrepancy in life insurance prices, she said simply, "It's a better deal, basically [to buy life insurance from Sun Life]." However, she followed up by appealing to buyers' sense of responsibility.

"What we ask our clients when we're selling life insurance is this: do you have life insurance at the moment? If they say no, that's not good. Because if they don't, and they die, they leave a debt of $50,000 to their family. By contrast, if the client says yes, I'm going to ask him how much insurance he has. If he only has $150,000 in insurance, but also has $180,000 in debts, there isn't enough. But if he tells me he's got $150,000 coverage and insurance on his house, and all that's left his is credit cards? Then that's sufficient. It wouldn't make sense for him to take the life insurance."

For a Waskaganish vehicle buyer who wished to remain anonymous, this logic was reasonable enough.

"I just got a new ski-doo, and I did the same thing," the anonymous buyer told the Nation. "I have insurance for the vehicle, but also I have to have life insurance, so in the event that I have an accident or die, I don't leave anyone with my bill."

The Waskaganish buyer says he's experienced in the market, and has similar life insurance covering his MasterCard debts in the case of death. To buy life insurance for a car only made sense, he said.

"I feel insured by it! It's important for me to look at the risks," he said. "I'm on the road about 80% of the time because of my work. Every time I'm on the road I have the risk of dying."

Even the cost of the insurance didn't trouble the Waskaganish man.

"I don't have anything to say about the rates," he said. "It's only a small amount on a monthly basis, and I think I got a pretty fair deal."

Namagoose said it isn't so much the insurance as the inflated cost of it that bothered him. He said he previously held similar life insurance on his line of credit.

"The premiums went down as the balance went down," said Namagoose. "This is normal, but it's $1.20 a month, not $12,000 for a car."

Namagoose said he plans to continue to fight the insurance charge by getting the Quebec Consumer Protection Office to look into the case.

"We're following up with them and saying it's a consumer protection matter," he said, "and they shouldn't shove it off to the insurance bureau. It's not an insurance issue, it's a consumer issue. Our legal counsel is going to give them more information – this is ongoing."

However, said Namagoose, in light of the fact that Automobiles Carella asserts that Industrial Alliance determines their insurance prices, he says he'll need to investigate that company's practices as well.

"Carella is making a serious allegation against the insurance companies," he said. "We need to know who is the real scammer. If it is the insurance companies, it is a major story which may require the attention of Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions."

SERVICE BY PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO JOSEPH CHARLIE MATTAWASHISH (defendant) that two (2) applications were filed in the office of the Superior Court of the judicial district of Abitibi. A copy of those applications and of the notice to the defendant was left at the attention of the defendant at the clerk's office of the courthouse of Chibougamau situated at 830, 3rd Street, in Chibougamau.

In order to answer to those applications, you must file an appearance, personally or by lawyer, at the courthouse of Chibougamau within twenty (20) days of the present notice. If you fail to appear within the time limit indicated above, a judgment by default may be rendered against you without further notice upon its expiry.

The applications will be presented before the court on JUNE 9, 2014, at 8:45 am, at the courthouse of Chibougamau.

Chibougamau, May 16, 2014
By: Me Myriam Gaudreault, Applicant's lawyer.

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Soaring above life's worries

by Xavier Kataquapit

These days my mind is filled with worry. I have been watching the events unfolding in the Ukraine. I find it unbelievable that the world's major powers are taunting each other on Russia's doorstep.

This major conflict wouldn't be so bad except for the fact that many of the countries involved have nuclear weapons. The only time I am aware that tensions have been so high among super powers with nuclear arms was during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. It is alarming and upsetting that we are at the precipice of the third world war again.

I am grateful that I have found some escape from all this bad news through my regular meditation of listening to music. In particular, I am thankful that my friend John Elliott has finally produced his album of instrumental music titled Soaring. His long-awaited musical work is like an antidote for me to the worry of all this talk of war.

I have known John for many years and I was welcomed into his family of musicians when I first left my home community. I was surprised to find myself around the piano with his parents Rita and Everett and his brother Donald singing songs at Christmas and other festive occasions. Donald is also an accomplished musician.

John is an incredible pianist and keyboard player who has worked with Native musicians like my cousin Ron Kataquapit. John provided all the keyboard work on Ron's album called Spirit Of The Wolf.

I've had many private performances over the years from John where he lives with his wife Colleen near London, Ontario. I, like many of his family and friends, have been waiting for him to produce an album. Soaring is a masterpiece of meditative music. Like the title suggests, it can lift your spirits.

John is a northerner from Iroquois Falls, Ontario, and you can hear his Irish and Scottish roots in the album. You can also hear songs that have a jazz-fusion feel and calming melodies.

Through the magic of modern technology John produced this album from his own studio. The quality of this production is amazing. He also put together all of the electronics, sound, music production and promotion.

At a piano or keyboard he effortlessly pours out all kinds of wonderful melodies. I have learned over the years how to play some guitar and I can identify with what it is like to feel the music you produce, whether it is sad, happy, angry or loving.

My favourite song on the album is "Just For Fun". This tune reminds me of Paris as its upbeat melody takes me back to the streets of that incredible city. John is what I would describe as a big picture thinker and I see his interest in physics, the stars, the universe and beyond in songs like "Soaring", "Space Walk" and "13 Lightyears".

What really excites me is the fact that all of this wonderful music can be purchased for less than the price of a sandwich online at www.cdbaby.com/cd/johnelliott1 or by searching for 'Soaring by John Elliott' on iTunes. You can also visit his website for more information at johnelliottproductions.com

Here is an opportunity for people to support a Canadian musician. At the same time you can find that antidote to worry that I have discovered in his soaring melodies. Perhaps if we had the artists and the most creative people on our planet leading us we would not be in the current world crisis at the brink of nuclear war.

It seems that we have given up on finding and putting good people in power that promise to make a better world for future generations. It is difficult to find a way to change this game of war but maybe and just maybe saner minds will prevail and humanity will avoid another close call in the nuclear age. Perhaps it will be the artists and musicians who will provide us with enough strength and hope to make a change for real peace.

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